
Title: Diversity of our Land

Author: Lord Blackthorn

While I deplore the depredations of the misguided and belligerent races with which we share our fair Britannia, and alongside the populace do mourn the needless deaths that their raids cause, I cannot countenance the policy of wholesale slaughter of these races that seems to be the habity of our soldierly element. Can we not regard the ratmen, lizard men, and orcs as fellow intelligent beings with whom we share a planet? Why must we slay them on sight, rather than attempt to engage them in dialogue? There is no policy of shooting at wisps when they grace us with their presence (not that an arrow could do much to pierce them!).

To view these creatures as vermin denies their obvious intelligence, and we cannot underestimate the repercussions that their slaughter may have. If we regard the slaying of fellow humans as a crime, so must we regard the killing of an orc.

At the same time, should a lizardman slay a human, would we not forgive their ignorance and foolishness? Let us not surrender the high moral ground by descending to bestiality.

Now, I say not that
we should fail to defend
ourselves in case of
attack, for even amongst
humans we see war, we
see famine, and we see
assault (though we owe a
debt of gratitude to our
Lord British for
preserving us from the
worst of these!).

However, incursions
such as the recent
tragedy which cost us
the life of Japheth,
Guildmaster of Trinsic's
Paladins, are folly.

I had met Japheth,
and like all paladins, he
burned with an inner fire.
Yet though I had the
utmost respect for him,
none could deny the
hatred that flashed in his
eyes the mere mention of
orcs. And thus he carried
his battle to the orc
camps, and died there,
unable to rise above his
own childhood experiences
depicted in his book, "The
Burning of Trinsic." 'Tis a
shame that even our
mightiest men fall prey
to this ignorance!

Are there not
legends of orcs adopting
human children to raise
as their own? Tales of
complex societies built
underground by races we
regard as bestial?

Let us not repeat
the mistake of Japheth
of the Paladins, and let
us cease to persecute
the nonhuman races,
before we discover that
we are harming ourselves
in the process.